GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2174
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2016
Transgenic Silkworms
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated multi-locational field trials of transgenic silkworms, resistant to diseases, to boost overall production of silk;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that for the first time the Review Committee of Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) has given permission to conduct filed trials on any animal or insect; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Government has established Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) under the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India for monitoring the safety related aspects in respect of on-going research projects and activities. RCGM has permitted Centre for DNA finger Printing and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad to conduct multi-locational field trials of transgenic silkworm in contained facilities on genetically engineered silkworm (Bombyx mori) resistant to Nuclear Polyhydrosis Virus developed using RNAi based techniques at four locations i.e three Research Institutes of Central Silk Board viz., Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute, Mysore (Karnataka); Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute, Berhampore (West Bengal); Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute, Pampore (J&K) and Andhra Pradesh State Sericulture Research and Development Institute (APSSRDI), Hindupur. RCGM has directed for rearing of the ruling hybrids CSR2 x CSR4, PMxCSR2, Nistari x (SK6 x SK7) & Nistari x NB4D2 along with transgenic hybrids in respective Institutes. A Central Compliance Committee (CCC) has also been set up by RCGM to strictly monitor the field trials.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. This is the first time in India that RCGM has permitted to conduct such trials on Silkworm, an insect. The RCGM examined the issue during the 114th, 116th and 132nd meetings and gave permission to the Centre for DNA finger Printing and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad to conduct the multi-locational trial with silkworms in India to test the efficacy of the transgenic silkworm.

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